

Rep. Mark Meadows -

I am writing in the strongest possible opposition to the proposed legislation that would end life sentences for the most violent and predatory murderers in Michigan who happened to be under 18 at the time of their crimes.

I am the victim of such a killer. I understand the definite need to reform our juvenile laws, and agree that most juvenile offenders should be treated in the juvenile system and given every opportunity to remediate their lives and their crimes.

But my sister, her husband and their baby were killed by such an offender. I know that there are, sadly, realistically, some offenders who can never and should never get out.

Ironically, even the proponents of those bills to end JLWOP agree with that point.

So my question is why would they claim to be human rights advocates while still proposing to quite literally TORTURE victims families like us and sentence US to a lifetime of agonizing parole hearings, when it is clear the offender can never and should never get out.

You cannot fairly make retroactive changes in the law like this. These victims families were promised legal finality when they walked away from the trial and sentencing in the state of Michigan.

Whatever reforms you wish to make in the law GOING FORWARD I am sure you can work out with the law enforcement and victim community there, likely with their support.

In the meantime, think about the torture of the victims families. Think about the cost to the taxpayers of these frequent parole hearings. Think about the serious crimes. Changes should be prospective only.

Thank you,
Jennifer Bishop Jenkins